

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAB-01

OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 SCCT-01 /085 W

----- 079956

R 151345Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5819

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, PLO, SY

SUBJECT: FEDAYEEN REACTIONS TO PROSPECTIVE SINAI AGREEMENT ARE
INCREASINGLY ADVERSE

REF: BEIRUT 10367

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, THE BEIRUT PRESS AUG 15 REPORTED SEVERAL
ADVERSE REACTIONS BY FEDAYEEN SPOKESMEN TO THE EMRGING SINAI
AGREEMENT:

A. ZUHAIR MOHSON, HEAD OF THE PLO MILITARY DEPT AND A
SAIQA LEADER, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE AGREEMENT "POSES
THE GREATEST DANGER TO THE NATIONALIST CAUSE, NAMELY, THE ARAB
STRUGGLE AGAINST ZIONISM, SINCE THE JUNE 1967 WAR." MOHSIN
PARTICULARLY CONDEMNED THE "FREEZING" OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CON-
FLICT THAT HE SAW INHERENT IN THE ACCORD. HE ALSO TOOK THE OCCA-
SION TO WARN THAT "IMPERIALISM" MIGHT TOUCH OFF INTERNAL TROUBLES
IN LEBANON TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THIS "LIQUIDATION MANEU-
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VER." (COMMENT: IN REPORTING MOHSON'S INTERVIEW, THE PRESS

DIDN'T FAIL TO NOTE HIS CONNECTION TO PRESUMED OFFICIAL THINKING IN DAMASCUS.)

B. THE PDFLP DISTRIBUTED A STATEMENT AUG 14 CALLING ON ARAB "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" TO CONDEMN "THIS SHAMEFUL COLLUSION BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN RIGHT, ON THE ONE HAND, AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND THE ZIONIST ENEMY, ON THE OTHER."

C. REPORTING A SPEECH BY FATAH LEADER ABOU MAHER IN DAMASCUS THE DAY BEFORE, THE PRO-FEDAYEEN BEIRUT DAILY "AL MUHARRIR" AUG 15 QUOTED HIM AS REJECTING "THIS TYPE OF DECEPTIVE SETTLEMENT". THE PAPER ALSO FRONT-PAGED A PURPORTED REACTION FROM 'ARAFAT: "WE REJECT THE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT AND WE WILL RESIST IT THROUGH THE BARRELS OF OUR GUNS."

2. LEFTIST DAILIES HERE, ESPECIALLY PRO-LIBYAN "AS SAFIR" AND "AL-KIFAH AL-ARABI", CONTINUE THE CRITICISM THEY MOUNTED YESTERDAY AGAINST THE PROJECTED ACCORD. IN CONTRAST, INDEPENDENT "AL NAHAR" AND RIGHTIST "AL JARIDA" EXPRESS CAUTIOUS APPROVAL.
GODLEY

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